

Dear Readers,

At the outset, I would like to mention that the Indo-Japanese relations have been progressing steadily. With the merger of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 1st October, 2008, JICA has become the largest bilateral donor agency in the world. India is the biggest recipient of JICA's assistance and from Indian side, JICA is the largest bilateral donor agency.

I am sure that JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) with its large network will play an active role in achieving greater heights to the Indo-Japan relationship. Japan and India share many things in common in cultural and other aspects and the efforts of JAAI to strengthen that bond are praiseworthy.

It is a matter of immense pleasure to see that JAAI has been organizing various activities such as health camp for weaker sections of the society, technical seminars in various fields, environment awareness program for schoolchildren besides promotion of culture of Japan through origami and ikebana workshops. These activities are very well organized and contribute substantially to promotion of Indo-Japan relationship.

Further, we are very thankful that ex-president of JAAI enabled the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) to experience Indian home-stay which enabled them to start their activities smoothly.

Also, it is quite encouraging to know that JAAI maintains its website which contains a directory of its members, who exceed 800, with complete details as well as the details of the past and current events including photographs. As the website is updated regularly, it is a useful medium of interaction and sharing of information among members

I wish all members of JAAI a bright and prosperous future

With best regards



(Hidetoshi Irigaki)